

# Skyline-Paradise Hills Community Planning Group

## March 10, 2026 Minutes

### Call to Order

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 18:01 hours.

### Roll Call

The following members were present for a quorum:

- Samantha Jenkins
- Don Houston
- Guy Preuss
- Tanisha-Jean Martin
- Avery Montoya
- Wayne English
- Erin Tomaras

The following member was absent:

- Rhonda Shephard

### Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- *Member Montoya motioned to approve the March 10, 2026 agenda. Member Houston seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Montoya, Martin, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.*
- *Member Houston motioned to approve the February 10, 2026 minutes. Member Montoya seconded. Members Preuss, English, Jenkins, Houston, Montoya, Martin, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass.*

### Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Kim Laru announced that the Paradise Hills Native Garden will hold a grand opening celebration on April 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and invited the CPG to host a table at the event. Plans include shuttle service and invitations to the Mayor, Councilmember Henry Foster, and community organizations. Contact: [nativegarden@paradisegardeners.com](mailto:nativegarden@paradisegardeners.com) for more information.
- Community member Dorene Dias Pesta Dorene Dias Pesta referenced *Council Policy 600-24* and said back and forth questions cannot be asked during public comment. She noted that clarifying questions are OK. She also mentioned that it is not the Skyline Hills Library's responsibility to post CPG agendas and that at the CPC meeting the librarian was blamed for not doing so in January.
- Elsie (Skyline Hills Library) announced a *Book Talk on Pancho Villa World Champion* scheduled for March 28, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., open to all community members.

### Representative Reports

- Bruce Williams (City Council District 4) provided the following information:
  - Shared a QR code for the mayor's citywide survey and mentioned the City's \$120 million budget deficit.
  - Directed community members to contact Stephanie Sanchez at [smsanchez@san Diego.gov](mailto:smsanchez@san Diego.gov) for office hours with the Councilmember.
  - Announced free parking for verified residents at seven of twelve Balboa Park lots.
  - Shared information about a Virtual Budget Crash Course on March 24 from 5–6:30 p.m.

- Noted available funding assistance for residents struggling with the trash fee (MAACproject.org/SDSWAssistance).
- Reported that the San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce is moving into the former Legal Aid building.
- Provided upcoming cleanup events: March 18 – Oak Park and April 11 – Encanto Baptist Church.
- Announced Black Family Wellness Fair on March 14 at Bayview Church, 1–4 p.m.
- Shared the upcoming City budget schedule:
  - April 15: Mayor’s proposed budget released
  - April 20: Budget presentation to City Council
  - May 4–8: Council budget hearings
  - May 13: Revised budget issued
  - June 9: Final Council vote on FY2027 budget
- Mariah Jameson (County District 4) provided the following information:
  - The next County Board of Supervisors meeting is on March 24.
  - At the previous meeting, the board formed an ad hoc budget committee in response to HR-1 funding cuts.
  - The board is also looking into the *Safety Net Bridge Program* to help bridge funding gaps in the healthcare system.
  - The final *Socially Equitable Cannabis Program* will be presented to the board for approval in Summer 2026.
  - The office of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe is recruiting volunteers for community engagement events.
  - An older adult resource fair is scheduled for May.
  - County grants for neighborhood reinvestment and 501(c)(3) organizations is closing March 31.
  - An e-newsletter is available on Supervisor Montgomery Steppe’s website.

### **Community Planners Committee Report**

- Member Preuss reported that the CPC finalized recommendations regarding the Land Development Code (LDC) updates.
  - He abstained from voting because CPGs were not given the opportunity to review the updates before adoption.
  - He noted that planning groups should begin drafting letters to state representatives requesting early notification about proposed housing bills that affect zoning laws.
- Member Preuss announced his resignation as a CPG voting member.

### **Chair’s Report**

- No topics were received for this meeting.

### **Voting Members Report**

- No topics were received for this meeting.

### **Informational Items**

- Member Houston presented updates on local Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects:
  - 181 projects citywide within City Council District 4, including 21 in the Skyline Paradise Hills planning area. Of those, 8 projects are currently on hold.

- Skyline is scheduled to receive a new fire station, a pump station, and a storm drain project east of Rachael Avenue.
- The following projects were reviewed:
  - The Cielo & Woodman Pump Station (S12012) project, at an estimated cost of \$36 million, will replace the underground station with an above-ground facility including a backup generator. Construction is expected to begin in Q3 2027 and last approximately 32 months.
    - City website says this project occurs in Encanto but it actually occurs in Skyline. Community member Dorene Dias Pesta advised the CPG to work with the City to correct the discrepancies/
  - RRFB Group 2402 (B24110) project includes crosswalk enhancements near Skyline Recreation Center and the School of Creative and Performing Arts. It is fully funded.
  - SD East of Rachael Ave SWD (S24008) project will start this year and replace storm drains/vacate easements.
  - Paradise Mesa Standpipe Replacement (B21050) project will construct a new water tower to improve local infrastructure.
- Vice Chair Martin inquired about being able to search for natural gas projects. Member Houston noted that search options are limited on the CIP website.
- Community member Dorene Dias Pesta suggested contacting CIP staff through the email on the City's website for clarity or submitting a public records request for additional project data.
- Community member Tanika Tyler asked how improvements impact local property values and whether residents directly benefit. Chair Jenkins noted that language is added to construction contracts to ensure local contractors are employed for the project.
- Member Houston emphasized following City spending and oversight by comparing listed CIP projects to actual progress.
- Member Houston noted that the City solicits input on CIP prioritization, so that is the time to advocate for projects that are on hold or present new projects that are needed.
  - Community member Dorene Dias Pesta noted that emails for input came in July of last year and she submitted for the Jamacha neighborhood. She also noted that most CPGs have a list of projects that are discussed each meeting.
- Community member Tanika Tyler requested to have time to present on the Douglas District and discuss her vision board at the next meeting.
- Vice Chair Martin discussed the success of the 2026 MLK Jr. Parade.
  - Attendance exceeded 300 people, with participation from tribal dancers and local organizations.
  - Parade planning for 2027 will begin earlier this year to improve logistics.
  - She noted potential creation of a nonprofit entity to manage parade operations independently from City or County funding, ensuring transparency and ongoing community involvement.
  - She is going to put out an ask for volunteers and funding/donations. They have a fiscal sponsor to collect the money.
- Community member Dorene Dias Pesta requested that she be provided with a copy of the CPG's community engagement plan and for it to be shown during the meeting. It could not be provided during the meeting.

## Action Items

- ***Vice Chair Martin motioned to appoint community member Tanika Tyler to fill the vacancy left by Arielle Cooke (term through 2027). Member English seconded. Members English, Jenkins,***

***Houston, Montoya, Martin, and Tomaras voted for the motion to pass. Member Preuss did not vote.***

- Community member Dorene Dias Pesta noted that every single motion allows public discussion. She asked what the CPG's election policy says about term limits and ad-hoc committees. She noted that the agendas have not been listing all the vacancies.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 19:34 hours.

Meeting minutes were recorded by:

*Erin Tomaras*

Erin Tomaras, Secretary

**Minutes approved at April 14, 2026 meeting**